

The Coalition to Fix LAX Now

**350 Bixel Street
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Co-Chairs:

*Gary Toebben, President / CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Ron Miller, Executive Secretary, LA/Orange Counties Building & Construction Trades Council*

September 9, 2013

Mr. David W. Louie, Chair
Airport Land Use Commission
Los Angeles County
320 W. temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Project No. R2013-01802, Aviation Case No. 2013000001
Impasse Appeal: Cities of Culver City and Ontario and County of San Bernardino

Dear Chairman Louie:

We respectfully urge the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) to fully and completely deny the Impasse Appeal brought by the cities of Culver City and Ontario and the County of San Bernardino relative to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Specific Plan Amendment (SPAS).

The purpose of this letter is to share our grave concern that, once again, the modernization of LAX and creation of tens of thousands of jobs could be further delayed. This has unfortunately become the usual course of inaction when attempting to rehabilitate our airport's aging and broken infrastructure. This time, an irresponsible and questionable appeal brought by three appellants (of which two are not even within the County of Los Angeles) have threatened yet another postponement.

What is at stake here is much bigger than the configuration of the North Airfield – we stand to jeopardize or significantly delay all projects associated with the SPAS approval - including the Automated People Mover connecting the airport to Metro, the Intermodal Transportation Center, the Consolidated Rental Car Facility, improvements to dozens of intersections surrounding LAX and the continued rehabilitation of passenger terminals.

We are a broad coalition of civic stakeholders, led by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, in support of the continuing

modernization of LAX and the efforts of Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to deliver a 21st Century airport experience for our air carriers and passengers. Our coalition includes business organizations, representatives from the hospitality and entertainment industry, and other labor unions.

The Coalition considers the Los Angeles City Council's April 30, 2013 SPAS approval a vital component toward LAX's complete modernization, which includes its airfield. We are keenly aware that the City Council's approval is one step in the process which will ultimately modernize LAX. LAWA officials are poised to begin the next phase of the process: consideration by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the full completion of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance.

To accomplish this, LAWA's task was to identify a recommended alternative for the North Airfield's reconfiguration. This selection occurred as part of a two-year environmental process conducted by LAWA. We participated in all public workshops and hearings in a process that was transparent, participatory and extremely well attended by community stakeholders. The environmental review process included thorough analyses of environmental impacts and we remain convinced that the alternative was selected after careful and diligent consideration.

LAWA staff has also been quite clear that the selected alternative will also be subject to further environmental review in the future. The so-called "Project Level" Environmental Impact Reports will mandate additional analyses pertaining to noise and pollutant exposure, as well as safety impacts, which will provide many invitations for public input and participation. This abundance of subsequent review opportunities should satisfy the concerns suggested by your ALUC staff in their published analysis.

We are very concerned that if you choose your staff's recommendation, your action could negatively impact and postpone other SPAS-related projects, most especially the tremendous work underway to finally connect LAX to public transportation. Last January, our Coalition commissioned a telephone poll conducted by Goodwin Simon Strategic Research of nearly 2,000 Los Angeles residents. Our poll's results showed an 87% support for connecting LAX to the light rail system. LAX remains one of the last airports of any major U.S. city that has not fully utilized rail transportation as a means of access for the public. An article in today's Los Angeles Times describes Los Angeles ranking a low 17th in business travel and meeting destinations in an annual poll conducted by Cvent, an event management firm. As a Coalition, we are determined to improve our airport's facilities as it serves as the region's "welcome mat" for millions of visitors and conventions.

The people of Los Angeles have now endured an entire generation of delays as policy makers debate the modernization of LAX. Enough is enough. We urge you to carefully review LAWA's exhaustive process and agree that the airport staff conducted a full, careful and comprehensive environmental review, and that future specific projects (especially the North Airfield) will only occur after subsequent analyses and public participation. While we have great respect for your staff, we encourage you then to look beyond their

recommendation and completely deny all aspects of this meritless Impasse Appeal so that LAX's modernization can continue without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben
President / CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Elena Durazo".

Maria Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Miller".

Ron Miller
Executive Secretary, LA/Orange Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

Cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Airport Land Use Commission